

By Paul Kiwuuwa

Human Immune Virus Termination Technology Survival for the Fit HIV/AIDS organisation (HSFO) has reported to Police, over 600 cases of altering HIV results issued to people by private clinics across the country.

A two-year investigation report carried out by HSFO detailing the cases was presented yesterday before the parliamentary committee on HIV/AIDS.

According to the report, the cases have been reported to different Police stations countrywide and are pending prosecution.

Maj. (rtd.) Rubaramira Ruranga a renowned HIV activist, who has lived with HIV for 32 years, presented the report before the committee adding that the investigations were conducted in private clinics in over 60 districts.

The results, in the report indicates, are usually changed from positive to negative, for

Medical workers issuing fake HIV results for cash

personal ambitions.

Rubaramira said some men forge certificates that show they are HIV-negative so that they can marry without fear of rejection on account of their HIV status.

The Police spokesperson, Asan Kasingye, despite saying that he had not received the reports, noted: "Maj. Ruranga is a man of integrity, I don't doubt his investigations, If the Police have received the cases, they will be investigated and the culprits brought to book," Kasingye said.

Rubaramira told the MPs that Parliament should enact

ON THE GROUND

■ According to Rubaramira, some men forge certificates that show they are HIV-negative, at a fee, between sh300,000 and sh500,000, to marry girls under the deception of being virus-free.

tougher laws to deal with the health workers who deliberately sell fake HIV results.

Rubaramira, the patron of HSFO, said they planted the investigators, who are HIV-positive to pretend to seek HIV testing and counselling services from the private clinics.

The investigators found out that the health workers, even after establishing the clients to be HIV-positive, were willing to change the results to HIV-negative at a fee, between sh300,000 and sh500,000.

Rubaramira said the investigations revealed that 50% of men forge HIV-

negative certificates, to marry girls, under the deception of being virus-free.

"Why should one deliberately, with intention to infect the other with HIV, forge results? This is deliberate killing of innocent ones," Rubaramira said.

Don Byakatonda, who accompanied Rubaramira, narrated before the MPs how they netted a suspect in Mukono municipality in 2015.

"I visited the health facility with a colleague, Annet Katusiime, who is HIV-negative. The health worker first tested me and found I was HIV-positive. I pleaded with her to change

my results, arguing I was intending to marry Katusiime. She requested that I give her sh500,000 to alter my results, but we settled for sh300,000. I alerted the Police, who swung into action and arrested the health worker.

The committee vice-chairperson Evelyn Chemutai (Bukwo Woman MP), proposed that they summon the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council, the body responsible for licensing, monitoring and regulating the practice of medicine and dentistry in the country over the matter.